



GRACE COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Worship April 21, 2024 9:30am
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Gathering

PRELUDE

“Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus”
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Paul Manz

In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.

WELCOME

Rev. Karen Wright

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: I AM the good shepherd

ALL: the one who tends us, guides us into pastures, who recognized the sounds of our names.

ONE: I AM the good shepherd

ALL: the one who bends to heal us, travels through the deepest valleys with us, who gives up everything for us all.

ONE: I AM the good shepherd

ALL: the one whose rod and staff comforts us, whose strength and love holds us, whose cup of love runneth over.

ONE: I AM the good shepherd

ALL: and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

ONE: I AM the good shepherd

ALL: God’s People in God’s love for God’s world.

CHRIST’S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

Rejoice, the Lord Is King! 363

Descant

4 Re-joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

1 Re - joyce, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King a - dore!
 2 Our Sav - ior, Je - sus, reigns, the God of truth and love;
 3 His king - dom can - not fail; he rules o’er earth and heaven;
 4 Re - joyce in glo - rious hope! For Christ, the Judge, shall come

and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Re - joyce, give thanks, and sing, and tri - umph ev - er - more.
 when he had purged our stains, he took his seat a - bove.
 the keys of death and hell are to our Je - sus given.
 and gath - er all the saints to their e - ter - nal home.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re-joyce!

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice! Re-joyce, a - gain I say, re-joyce!

Each stanza of this enthronement text prepares for the final line of the refrain, based on Philippians 4:4. “Lord” is here a title of Christ rather than a reference to the undivided Trinity. The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 145) captures the mood well.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 4 through 1st grade may go to Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time. Greeters at the back of the Sanctuary will go with children to Room 12 downstairs where parents may pick up their children following worship. Our Nursery welcomes young children and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Lord, like a shepherd, you never stop searching for your people, your care for us anticipates our need. Before we recognized we needed your grace, in love, Jesus gave his life for our forgiveness. We confess that we need your forgiveness, we confess our sins: you are the shepherd, and we are your flock, but we admit the times we have tried to take your place and take control ourselves. We admit that we have not always trusted your good news to be good for us. At times we have pleaded with you to care for us, but we have held back from caring for others and ignored the needs of others. Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us in the name of Jesus. Loving shepherd, teach us by the Holy Spirit to follow you in the days and places of the weeks ahead. Through Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ONE: May the peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: **And also with you and all others!**

*HYMN 243 *(Sing 3 times)*

“Be Not Afraid”

Taizé Community

Be Not Afraid

243

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the hymn 'Be Not Afraid'. Each system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: 'Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le - lu - ia!'.

Intended for repeated singing like other chants from the Taizé Community, this text began in Czech as "Nebojte se." The English version uses the language of the angel's greeting to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary," who went to Jesus' tomb on Easter morning (Matthew 28:5-6).

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1998
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1998
Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

BE NOT AFRAID
4.4.8.D

Equipping

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 10:11-18 (NRSVue)

Joy Slayton

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

ANTHEM

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

arr. Benjamin Harlan

Chancel & Exaltation! Singers

Words by Isaac Watts

Chancel Brass – Darryl Prater-trumpet & Jim Kelly-horn in F – directors

Russ Thompson-trumpet, Lara Schesser-euphonium, & Keith Langabee-percussion

*I sing the mighty pow'r of God, that made the mountains rise;
that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.*

*I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;
God formed the creatures with a word, and then pronounced them good.*

*Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn my eye:
if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.*

*There's not a plant or flow'r below, but makes thy glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;
while all that borrow life from thee is ever in thy care,
and ev'rywhere that we can be, thou God, art present there. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 23 (NRSVue)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words

Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Moving Through Fear”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader sings Refrain once – All Sing on Repeat

PRAYER

Shepherd Me, O God

(Psalm 23)

473

Capo 1: (Em)
 Refrain Fm (C) (G) (D)
 D^b A^b E^b

Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -

(Bm7) (C) (Am7) (Bm7) (Em)
 Cm7 D^b B^bm7 Cm7 Fm

yond my fears, from death in - to life.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

“Sheep May Safely Graze”

Linda Dover, organist

by J.S. Bach

arr. Charles Callahan

Sending

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

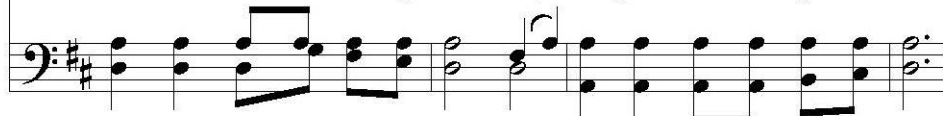
Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”
Linda Dover, organist

THE ASH GROVE
arr. John Leavitt

GOD’S PEACE TO YOU

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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